



# LETTERS

## A Missing “Musketeer”

Thank you for the wonderful tribute to my late friend Charlie Long [“Prologue,” Spring 2008].

In 1964 and 1965 Charlie, Paul Galloway and I were the Three Musketeers under the wise and guiding hand of Alumni Association director Boyd Gunning. I was the head of the Alumni Development Fund, Paul was the editor of *Sooner Magazine* and Charlie was already hip-deep in writing the 75th anniversary history of the University of Oklahoma. Charlie was so enthusiastic about his research; I remember him barreling into our coffee break at Will Rogers Cafeteria to announce “Hey, our colors aren’t red and white, they’re *crimson and cream!*” (or was it corn?) We would have extended discussions, as young men will, about whether OU’s birth was 1890, when the charter was issued (and what it says on the OU seal today) or 1892, when the first student was admitted (and what it used to say on the seal 50 years ago).

Through it all, Charlie was the unflappable arbiter, an ancient soul in a young man’s body. He was a fine journalist, father and friend. He was a great credit to the University of Oklahoma.

*Jack Shakely, ’62 ba journ  
Rancho Mirage, California*

## Friend and Colleague

Charles Long and I met when we worked together at the *Sooner Magazine* in the ’60s. He was a smart writer and brilliant editor, and he was absolutely enjoyable to be with. I loved going to work every day. He was cheerful, upbeat; we laughed constantly. His sense of humor was gentle; the absurdities of life amused him. My humor tended toward the mean-spirited and cynical, but over time, when I was with Charles, my meanness was tempered.

I think he had this kind of effect on people. Not only did you feel good around him, you even behaved better.

Everyone has vices, however. On lunch hours, Charles and I would grab our friend

Tom Furton and go to my apartment to watch “As the World Turns.”

We played on basketball and softball teams for Ken’s Food Market in the Norman city leagues. I spent hours with Charles and Joan and their new son Chuckie at their place. I was forlorn, if happy for Charles, when they moved to Chicago so Charles could be editor of *Quill*, a national magazine for journalists.

Two years later, he brought me to Chicago and introduced me to the managing editor of the *Chicago Sun-Times*, which led to my 30-year career at the *Sun-Times* and *Chicago Tribune*.

Again, I spent many hours at the Long home, this one in suburban Wheaton, playing ball in an adjacent vacant lot with Charles and Chuckie and new sons David and Andy.

Our laughter never ceased, and in retirement we had long phone conversations during Cubs games. As usual, Charles was patient and hopeful and positive. I trust he’s loving this season.

Once he arranged a trip to Broadway, where, on successive nights, we saw “The Iceman Cometh” and “Death of a Salesman.” After this major dose of bleakness, I despaired for humanity; Charles, of course, was enthused about the acting. As my wife, Maggie, says, “You could stand to be a little more like Charlie.” All of us could.

*Paul V. Galloway, ’57 engl  
New Buffalo, Michigan*

## Bench Location Appropriate

Thanks for the tribute to Charlie Long. The article reflects the great affection in which Charlie was held by his many friends. Despite his years in the “big city,” Charlie’s enthusiasm for all things Sooner was legendary. Anchored by his fulsome smile, he was a regular attendee at his Norman High and OU fraternity reunions. And of course, son Chuck’s joining the Sooner coaching staff fulfilled a Sooner father’s dream. Charlie was indeed a Sooner through and through.

Charlie’s family and friends have placed a memorial bench next to Heisman Park across from the stadium. We think Charlie would approve of the location. Additional donations can be sent to the OU

Foundation, 100 Timberdell Road, Norman, OK 73019—Charles Long memorial bench fund.

*Tom Hester, ’61ba, ’63 llb  
Naples, Florida*

## Remembering Charlie Long

I enjoyed your “Prologue” on a great Sooner named Charles F. Long. He will be missed. I met and became acquainted with him at the Final Four in 2002 in Atlanta. He and [his son] Andy stayed in the OU hotel with the team and fans. I truly enjoyed knowing him and appreciate your words in the magazine.

*Robert Davis  
Okarche, Oklahoma*

## Tuning in to WNAD

Your Winter 2008 *Sooner Magazine* featuring KGOU/KROU was delightfully interesting. It would be of interest, I feel, for you to consider doing a story on WNAD/WNAD-FM, which was the “University of Oklahoma Educational Radio Station” long before Public Radio or community radio, appeared. As a youth living in Norman in the 1940s, I was pleased and happy to bicycle to the Memorial Union Building (where the studios were), and be the “child’s voice” on a science program with Jesse Burkett. In those days, some of the programming on WNAD was aimed at rural schools where teachers had more to handle than was practicable.

Surely there are materials in the archives about this early-day effort on the part of OU! And surely, WNAD-FM was one of the rare stations in a time when AM radio was just about the total picture!

*(Prof) Willis H A Moore, ’62 ba letters  
Adjunct Faculty, History/Humanities  
Chaminade University of Honolulu  
Honolulu, Hawaii*

## Another WNAD Listener

There has been an OU radio station for much more than 25 years. Not with any national hookups, but in the ’40s the OU radio station was WNAD, I believe, and studios were in the Union. The call letters and studio location are subject to challenge, I realize, as I was an engineering student, just listened to the station and

had nothing to do with its operation.

No big deal, just knew that KGOU had a predecessor.

*Gordon Dempsey, '47 bs chem. eng  
Richardson, Texas*

### And Don't Forget KUVY

Lest Molly Griffis feel alone ["Letters," Spring 2008], I solemnly swear that I also served on the KUVY staff. It was a great learning lab, and I wish I could remember the names of all the fun people with whom I worked. One was Ross Cummings, who went on to a very successful career in advertising and P.R., where I think he still is.

I enjoyed several years in radio and TV before moving into children's mental health where I still am.

Thanks, Molly, for the memories.

*Frances Lay Morris, '52 ba, '71 ma  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

*Editor's Note: Fran Morris may be best remembered to local TV viewers as "Miss Fran from Storyland," a fixture on Oklahoma City's KWTW Channel 9 from 1961 well into the 1980s.*

### A Little KUVY History

The letter to the editor from Molly Levite Griffis ('60 ba) in the Spring 2008 edition of the *Sooner* struck a real chord with me, and I wanted to echo the hope that someday KUVY might be featured in a *Sooner* story.

KUVY began, I think, in 1948—housed in Kaufman Hall and operated as a lab experience by broadcasting students in the Communication Department. That program was chaired by Dr. Sherman P. Lawton, and when I became a part of KUVY in 1954, the station was under the supervision of Dr. Harry Lyle—who was followed by Dr. Ansel Resler as indicated in Ms. Griffis' letter.

The station made use of what was called "wired wireless" technology, which operated by "booster" amplifiers in the various buildings served (mostly residence halls), imposing the signal from the studio—carried by cable through the steam tunnels to the various amplifiers—on the power lines in the building. These electric lines functioned as "antenna" for the sig-

nal. The technology was problematic, but did work.

During the time I was with the station, there were a number of gifted students who went on to broadcasting careers in Oklahoma and beyond. The ones that immediately come to mind include: Carolee Axtell, Bill Beebee, Don Perryman, sportscasters Ross Porter and Mike Trepps, Gene Ruby, Gaylon Stacy, CNN leader Ed Turner, Dean Ward and the C&W duo Jude & Jody.

The station provided live coverage of OU events, including broadcasts of OU sports, had popular "call in" request shows ("Date with Skipper" comes to mind) and served as a serious preparation opportunity for students interested in the fields of radio and television. It was good to see it remembered!

*Jerry L. Hargis, '57 ba, '92 ed d  
Norman, Oklahoma*

### Mel Tolson's Broader Influence

Thank you for the wonderful article regarding Professor Melvin Tolson. ["Casting His Own Shadow," Spring 2008] The piece fails to mention, however, the tremendous impact that Prof. Tolson had on his students, regardless of race or creed. I was one of those students in the mid-1960s who, being required to have credit hours in a foreign language, somehow luckily ended up in one of his classes. Already knowing my intentions for business and law schools, I had little interest in foreign language other than to satisfy graduation requirements, but Prof. Tolson had other ideas of his own. Although I was not a stellar student in his class by any stretch of the imagination, I can honestly say that Prof. Tolson ranks among my favorite professors during my seven years at OU, for he taught us not just about French, but also about the responsibilities of life as it should be lived and appreciated. And I could always count on Monsieur D'Espagne (my "correct" name according to Prof. Tolson) being called upon at least once in nearly every class, so some study and preparation were always required.

Thank you, *Sooner Magazine*, for a delightful article, and thank you, Prof. Tolson, for the positive impact you have had

on innumerable students during the years!

*Donald E. DeSpain, '67 bba '73 jd  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

### Correcting the Hendersons

*Editor's Note: In the Spring 2008 Sooner Magazine article, "Casting His Own Shadow," Rowena L. Henderson, not George Henderson, should have been identified as the part-time instructor who came to OU in 1961, a year before Melvin B. Tolson Jr. became the first full-time black faculty member. Lennie Marie Muse-Toliver was the second black faculty member, joining the School of Social Work in 1964. George Henderson came to OU in 1967 in the departments of sociology and education. Both Tolson and George Henderson had long and distinguished careers at OU, retiring as professors emeritus.*

### Falconry in Norman

The magazine is always high quality, but this time I enjoyed and appreciated your selection of cover art above all else. As a practicing falconer, *Falconry in Central Asia* ["Best of the West," Spring 2008] is perfect! Thanks for featuring this piece. Now I will have to go see it. In addition, the timing is the best because I am working on a presentation about falconry for a museum conference.

I attached a photo of me and Anna, one of my hawks.

*Peter B. Tirrell, Associate Director  
Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum  
of Natural History  
University of Oklahoma*



Peter Tirrell and falcon friend Anna